

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

(a) hosting, on a server, a database of specification data of products of a plurality of different manufacturers, the product specification data in the database being arranged in a predefined product class;

(b) defining, for each product class, a schema for the entry of specification data of products in the product class;

(c) providing an interface for use by product manufacturers for entry of new product specification data into the database and for modifying existing product specification data in the database, the interface requiring each manufacturer to use a same schema when entering or modifying product specification data in a particular product class; and

(d) in exchange for remuneration from a given manufacturer, providing that manufacturer with access to the interface and to its respective product specification data in the database for use outside of the database and The method recited in claim 1, wherein (d) further comprises charging each manufacturer desiring to have access to the database a fee for such access.

7. (Original) The method recited in claim 6, wherein the fee is in the form of a monetary payment.

8. (Original) The method recited in claim 7, wherein the fee comprises a one-time fee.

9. (Original) The method recited in claim 7, wherein the fee comprises a periodically recurring fee.

10. (Original) The method recited in claim 7, wherein the fee is based on usage of the database by the manufacturers.

11. (Original) The method recited in claim 10, wherein the fee for a given manufacturer is based on the volume of product information stored in the database by that manufacturer.

12. (Original) The method recited in claim 10, wherein the fee for a given manufacturer is based on the number of times that the manufacturer accesses the database to retrieve product specification data.

13-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling an entity to serve as an application service provider with respect to product specification data of a plurality of manufacturers, comprising:

a database of specifications of products of the plurality of different manufacturers, the product specifications in the database being arranged in predefined product classes, and

an interface for use by the plurality of manufacturers for the entry of specifications of products in a given product class, there being defined, for each product class, a schema for the entry of specifications of products in that product class, the interface requiring each manufacturer to use the defined schema for a given product class when entering product specification data for products in that class,

the interface further permitting each manufacturer that provides remuneration to the entity to access its respective product specification data in the database for use outside of the database ~~The system recited in claim 16, and~~ wherein the remuneration required for access to the database comprises a fee paid by each manufacturer.

26. (Original) The system recited in claim 25, wherein the fee comprises a monetary payment.

27. (Original) The system recited in claim 25, wherein the fee comprises a one-time fee.

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0208 / 150665.1
Application No.: 09/676,365
Office Action Dated: 7/12/2004

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

28. (Original) The system recited in claim 25, wherein the fee comprises a periodically recurring fee.

29. (Original) The system recited in claim 25, wherein the fee is based on usage of the database by a manufacturer.

30. (Original) The system recited in claim 29, wherein the fee for a given manufacturer is based on the volume of product information stored in the database by the manufacturer.

31. (Original) The system recited in claim 29, wherein the fee for a given manufacturer is based on a number of times that the manufacturer accesses the database to retrieve product specification data.

32-49. (Cancelled)